

Wycombe fail to snatch a point from Ilford

Sports Mail Special Report

WITH four of their senior stalwarts dropped to give younger ones a chance, Wycombe Wanderers' uncertainty in defence and lack of understanding in attack gave their Ilford visitors in the Isthmian League today the chance to get a well deserved two-goal lead at the interval.

Wycombe Wanderers: Patrick: Sewell, Pullin; Thomas, Roystone, Cooper; Worley, Merrick, Balson, Horseman, Hodges.

Ilford: Barr; Ringwood, Whittall; Farmer, Pybus, Peacock; Armstrong, Maskell, Christmas, Rutter, Lakey.

Referee: Mr E. K. Bond (Cowley)

Wycombe had an escape in the first couple of minutes when Ilford right winger, Armstrong broke away on his own but missed an open goal, and on several occasions the shaky home defence was hard-pressed by fast and forceful Ilford attacks.

Patrick, returning to make his second senior appearance of the season, looked confident enough in goal but he was a little lucky to stop a short range drive when Alf Christmas broke through.

Wycombe hopes revived when a left wing corner kick was bundled into the net, but the referee disallowed the goal and after 25 minutes Ilford took the lead when ARMSTRONG again broke away on his own and beat Patrick with a flashing shot at top speed.

Wycombe attacks met with little success against a quick tackling Ilford defence, and with the visitors always looking more dangerous ARMSTRONG got away again in the 36th minute to increase the lead with a brilliant 30-yard drive.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Ilford 2.

The Wanderers' attacks were pressed with a new urgency and after Horseman and Hodges had each tested Barr, BALSON put the home side back in the running with a goal in the 64th minute.

Five minutes later, RUTTER, with a pass from Christmas, restored Ilford's lead, but almost immediately in mounting excitement, HORSEMAN added a second for Wycombe from a fine pass by Worley.

It was Ilford's first victory at Loakes Park for 25 years.

RESULT:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| WYCOMBE WAN. | 2 |
| ILFORD | 3 |

WYCOMBE'S RALLY FAILS

Wycombe W. 2 Ilford 3

THIS was the first time an Ilford side had won at Loakes Park for nearly 30 years, and it was a convincing victory.

Wycombe had dropped four of their senior stalwarts to give younger men a chance, but the experiment flopped. It took their new-look forward line the best part of an hour to achieve an effective understanding, and by half-time Ilford were two goals up and unlucky not to be even more ahead.

The fast-moving Ilford forwards, with Dave Armstrong and Alf Christmas the livewires, often had a shaky Wycombe defence at panic stations, and Armstrong got two brilliant goals to give them their first-half advantage.

A slow handclap spurred Wycombe to a vigorous rally in the second half, but after centre forward John Balsam had reduced the lead in the 63rd minute Ilford's Brian Rutter got another and on two other occasions had the ball in the net only to be ruled offside.

Horseman, inspiration of a tremendous Wycombe revival, scored a second from a pass by Worley, but Ilford's skipper Alan Whittall marshalled too tough a defence for the rejuvenated home side to manage an equaliser.